

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3-27-09
HB 662

Mr. (Ms.) Chairman and member of the committees:

I rise to support HB662.

My name is Karen Cooper. I am a full-time Massage Therapist and I own my own practice and in Helena. I have been a professional massage therapist for the past 4 years.

I received my National Certification in 2006. (National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.) I am a professional member of the National American Massage Therapy Association and belong to the State Chapter of AMTA.

I make my living by being a full-time massage therapist.

Massage Therapy is becoming increasingly recognized by the health care community as having legitimate and proven medical benefits for patients. While the medical community has recognized the importance of massage therapy in human health care, Montana remains one of the few remaining states that doesn't have licensing requirements for Massage Therapists. There are 40 states with licensing or registration requirements for Massage Therapists.

The time has come for our profession to be legally recognized and licensed by the State of Montana. I am not an advocate for unnecessary government regulation, but in this case I believe there is a legitimate public interest in having Massage Therapists licensed in Montana. Licensing requirements for Massage Therapists safeguard the public interest by requiring basic educational requirements and testing to certify practitioners are qualified to practice massage therapy in Montana.

I believe Montanans should have the confidence that when they go to a massage therapist, they are taking service from a well-trained massage therapists, with ethical professionalism. The time has come for Montana to join ranks with the other 40 states and license massage therapist in the State.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 622.

Thank you very much.